

to as ink hereinafter. The term "liquid" is also understood to relate to a solution and to a finely distributed dispersion. The liquid may be very viscous. A compound present as a liquid is then transferred from the printing face to the surface of the substrate. The known stamp has a stamp material of polydimethyl siloxane, which will be denoted PDMS hereinafter. A solution of an alkane thiole in ethanol is present in the reservoir as the ink. The stamp body and the reservoir are clamped in a glass cylinder with a diameter of 5 mm. The printing face is present at one end of the cylinder. The other end is sealed by fusion. In the method, a patterned monolayer of thiole was provided on a gold substrate.

On page 2, Paragraph 4

It was found that, if the stamp is not clamped in an impermeable cylinder of rigid material, the deformation of patterns in the resulting layer is absent. Swelling of the stamp body was mentioned as the cause of the deformation in the cited publication. In the stamp according to the invention, the stamp body is not clamped in, but fastened on a carrier body. If any swelling should take place owing to the presence of ink, it will take place in direction which is substantially perpendicular to the first and the second side of the stamp body. All lateral dimensions will remain substantially constant during this, so that the pattern of the printing face can

*a2*  
*concluded*

be correctly transferred to the substrate. Neither does any bending of the stamp body take place, because the stamp body is supported at its second side.

*a1*

On page 3, Paragraph 1

*a3*

In a favorable embodiment, the carrier body has a first and a second, opposed side, with the stamp body at the first side and the reservoir at the second side, the carrier body comprises channels, and at least a portion of the channels extends from the first to the second side of the carrier body. The channels in the carrier body may be provided in various ways. A first example is through perforation of the carrier body. A second example is through patterning of the carrier body, whereby a pattern of channels is created in the carrier body. Preferably, the channels fully traverse the carrier body in a few locations only. Patterning of the carrier body may take place in various ways: examples are dry or wet etching, powder blasting, and laser cutting. Patterning may also take place from two mutually opposed sides of the carrier body. With such a two-sided treatment, the channels at the one side may have a much greater diameter than those at the other side. It is also possible for the number of channels at the one side to be much larger per unit surface area than at the other side. Further methods of patterning are known to those skilled in the art.

On page 7, Paragraph 1

*a4*

Fig. 3 is a side elevation of a second embodiment of the stamp 10 with a construction comparable to that of the stamp shown in Fig. 1. A difference, however, is that only a portion of the channels 5, 51, i.e. the channels 5, extend from the first side 41 through to the second side 42 of the carrier body. The carrier body 4 is made of metal which was anisotropically etched from the first side 41 and isotropically from the second side 42. The stamp comprises not only a first reservoir 3, but also a second reservoir 31. The two reservoirs 3, 31 are interconnected by the channels 5, 51 and are included in a circuit which further comprises a storage container, a pump, and connection lines. Pumping round of the liquid through this circuit causes the concentration of the ink in the channels 51, at the second side 12 of the stamp body, to remain substantially constant.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 2, 5, 6, 7 and 9 as shown in marked up form in Appendix A and in clean form as follows:

*X5* *b*

2. (Amended) A stamp (10, 20) as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the carrier body (4) has a first (41) and a second, opposed side (42), with the stamp body (1) at the first side (41) and the